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ABSTRACT

Adopting an interdisciplinary, story-centered approach, this book suggests new ways for elementary school students to study the ancient world. The book focuses on "The Odyssey," approaching the epic poem by having students create their own rough cartoons, vivid murals, and elaborate dioramas of Greek culture. The book suggests class activities such as retracing Odysseus's voyage on contemporary maps; scripting and producing fantastic puppet shows; reading various versions of "The Odyssey" (from comic books to full translation); studying the Greek roots of the English language; retelling the story; and writing epic poems. The book offers practical suggestions on how to organize a curriculum, involve parents and other community members, and motivate students of all abilities. It also provides specific teaching techniques, bases for evaluation, ideas for projects, and extensive bibliographies and resources. The book presents a model for creating a classroom in which the arts and literature, writing, and social studies are truly integrated. (NKA)

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